

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A head stack assembly for a disk drive, comprising:
  - a stamped actuator arm;
  - a coil portion attached to the stamped actuator arm;
  - a head gimbal assembly attached to the stamped actuator arm, the head gimbal assembly including a trace suspension flex having a metal base layer and a plurality of conductors supported by the metal base layer;
  - the stamped actuator arm including:
    - a bore defining a pivot axis;
    - an actuator arm side surface extending longitudinally along the stamped actuator arm; and
    - a plurality of longitudinally spaced-apart stamped protrusions for supporting the trace suspension flex, each stamped protrusion extending from the actuator arm side surface in a direction generally perpendicular to the pivot axis, the plurality of stamped protrusions being an integer in a range between 2 to 3.
2. The head stack assembly of claim 1, wherein the integer is 2.
3. The head stack assembly of claim 1, wherein the integer is 3.
4. The head stack assembly of claim 3, wherein the stamped protrusions are generally equally spaced-apart longitudinally along the actuator arm side surface.

5. A disk drive comprising:

- 1 a disk drive base;
- 2 a spindle motor attached to the disk drive base;
- 3 a disk supported on the spindle motor;
- 4 a head stack assembly rotatably coupled to the disk drive base;
- 5 the head stack assembly including:
  - 6 a stamped actuator arm;
  - 7 a coil portion attached to the stamped actuator arm;
  - 8 a head gimbal assembly attached to the stamped actuator arm, the head
  - 9 gimbal assembly including a trace suspension flex having a metal base
  - 10 layer and a plurality of conductors supported by the metal base layer;
  - 11 the stamped actuator arm including:
    - 12 a bore defining a pivot axis;
    - 13 an actuator arm side surface extending longitudinally along the
    - 14 stamped actuator arm; and
    - 15 a plurality of longitudinally spaced-apart stamped protrusions for
    - 16 supporting the trace suspension flex, each stamped protrusion extending
    - 17 from the actuator arm side surface in a direction generally perpendicular to
    - 18 the pivot axis, the plurality of stamped protrusions being an integer in a
    - 19 range between 2 to 3.

1 6. The disk drive of claim 5, wherein the integer is 2.

1 7. The disk drive of claim 5, wherein the integer is 3.

1 8. The disk drive of claim 7, wherein the stamped protrusions are generally equally spaced-  
2 apart longitudinally along the actuator arm side surface.